

REMARKS

By this amendment, applicant has amended claim 5 to eliminate the indefiniteness problem noted by the Examiner at the top of page 2 of the office action and to include therein the limitation previously recited in dependent claim 13.

Applicant has canceled claims 1, 3, 4, 13, 17 and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Since the foregoing amendments merely comply with requirements of form in the outstanding office action (the rejection of claims 5, 7, 11 - 13, 15 and 16 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph), cancel claims and amend claim 5 to include therein the limitation already considered by the Examiner, entry of this amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is requested. It is submitted the amendments place the application in condition for allowance or, at least, in better form for consideration on appeal and do not raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search.

In view of the cancellation of claims 1, 3, 4, 13, 17 and 18, and the foregoing amendments to claim 5 adding the limitation previously recited in claim 13, it is submitted the rejection of claims 1, 3 - 5, 7, 11, 12 and 15 - 18 under 35 USC 103(a) is moot. In any event, the rejection is traversed for the reasons set forth in the remarks accompanying the amendment filed October 31, 2003, which remarks are incorporated herein by reference.

Applicant notes the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 13. In view of the foregoing amendment adding the limitation of claim 13 to claim 5, it is submitted claim 5 is in condition for allowance. It is noted claim 13 previously depended from claim 12 which depends from claim 11, which depends from claim 5. While the limitations of claims 11 and 12 have not been included in claim 5, it is submitted claim 5 is nevertheless in condition for allowance. Since the remaining


claims depend from claim 5, it is submitted all of the claims now in the application are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, entry of this amendment and favorable reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims now in the application are requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 865.41078X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



Alan E. Schiavelli
Registration No. 32,087

AES/jla
(703) 312-6600